

In the Drawings:

Please enter the amendments as shown in red line on the enclosed copies of the originally filed drawings.

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 14 as follows:

14. (Amended) An apparatus for disabling a telephone ringer comprising:
a light sensing device operable to produce a signal indicative of a predetermined level of ambient light;
a controller operable to receive [the] said signal and disable [the] said telephone ringer when [the] said signal indicates that the ambient light has reached [a] said predetermined level; and
a recording device operable to communicate with the controller and play back a recording to a calling party when said controller has disabled said telephone ringer.

Add new claims 52, 53, 54 and 55 as follows:

52. (New) An apparatus for disabling a telephone ringer comprising:
a recording device operable with a telephone to play back an instruction recording to a calling party, the recording prompting the calling party to provide indicia that the call is a priority call; and
a controller communicating with said recording device, said controller being operable
(i) to disable the telephone ringer, and

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- (ii) to enable the recording device such that the recording device may play back said instruction recording to a calling party, the controller being operable thereafter to initiate an emergency sequence and re-enable the ringer when said indicia from the calling party indicates that the call is a priority call.

53. (New) The apparatus according to claim 52, wherein the recording prompts the calling party to speak a designated command to indicate that the call is a priority call, the controller being operable to recognize said spoken designated command such that the emergency sequence is initiated.

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54. (New) An apparatus for disabling a telephone ringer comprising:
- (a) a light sensing device operable to produce a first signal indicative of a predetermined level of ambient light;
 - (b) a timing device operable to produce a second signal indicative of a predetermined timing condition; and
 - (c) a controller operable to receive said first and second signals and arranged to selectively disable the telephone ringer upon occurrence of any one of the following conditions:
 - (i) when said first signal indicates that the ambient light has reached a predetermined level, or
 - (ii) when said second signal indicates that a predetermined timing condition has been satisfied;
 - (iii) when said first signal indicates that the ambient light has reached said predetermined

predetermined level only before said predetermined timing condition has been met, or

(iv) when said first signal indicates that the ambient light has reached said predetermined level only after said predetermined timing condition has been met.

55. (New) An apparatus for disabling a telephone ringer comprising:

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- (a) a light sensing device operable to produce a first signal indicative of a level of ambient light;
 - (b) a timing device operable to produce a second signal indicative of a timing condition;
 - (c) a recording device operable to play back a recording to a calling party, the recording prompting the calling party to provide indicia that the call is a priority call; and
 - (d) a controller communicating with the light sensing device, the timing device and the recording device, the controller being operable
 - (i) to receive said first signal and to disable the phone ringer, or
 - (ii) to receive said second signal and to disable the phone ringer, or
 - (iii) to receive said second signal but to refrain from disabling the phone ringer unless and until it also receives said first signal, or
 - (iv) to receive said first signal but to refrain from disabling the phone ringer unless and until it also receives said second signal. - -
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